

**REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough review and consideration of the present application. The non-final Office Action dated June 4, 2004 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, Applicant has amended claim 28. No new matter has been added. Claims 18-41 are pending in the application. Applicant acknowledges the withdrawal of the allowance of claims 18-27 in view of newly discovered references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-41 are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 18-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,529,251, issued to Hibino et al. (hereafter "Hibino") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,995,187, issued to Wakagi et al. (hereafter "Wakagi"). Applicant traverses the rejection because neither Hibino nor Wakagi, analyzed alone or in any combination, teaches or suggests the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. In particular, Hibino and Wakagi fail to teach or suggest an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device including, among other features, "a passivation layer on the pixel electrode; and a common electrode on the passivation layer" as recited in independent claim 18.

The Office Action concedes that Hibino fails to teach "forming a common electrode on the passivation layer". To compensate for the deficient teachings of Hibino, the Office Action relies upon the teachings of Wakagi. Based upon the teachings of Fig. 1 in Wakagi, the Office Action asserts it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method of Hibino with the teaching of Wakagi to obtain the combined features recited in the claims of the present application. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Wakagi discloses a counter electrode 12 on the protective insulating film 9 (see, Fig. 1); however, Wakagi fails to teach or suggest "a passivation layer on the pixel electrode", as recited in independent claim 18. Because Wakagi fails to teach or suggest at least this feature of claim 18, Wakagi fails to remedy the deficiencies of Hibino. As such, no combination of Hibino and Wakagi would provide an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display (LCD) device having the combined features recited in independent claim 18. Accordingly, claim 18 and its dependent claims 19-27 are allowable over Hibino and Wakagi.

Claim 28 is allowable over Hibino and Wakagi because Hibino and Wakagi, analyzed alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a method for manufacturing an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device (LCD) that includes "forming a passivation layer on the pixel electrode; and forming a common electrode on the passivation layer" as recited in independent claim 28. As discussed above with respect to independent claim 18, Wakagi fails to remedy the deficient teachings of Hibino. Thus, because no combination of Hibino and Wakagi teaches or suggests the combined features recited in independent claim 28, claim 28 and its dependent claims 29-41 are allowable over Hibino and Wakagi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-41 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 CFR § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

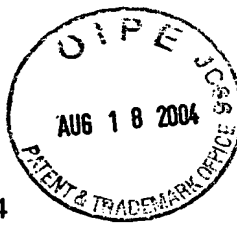
Dated: August 18, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No. 10/020,891  
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Reply to Office Action of June 4, 2004



Docket No.: 8733.495.00-US

Claim 28 is allowable over Hibino and Wakagi because Hibino and Wakagi, analyzed alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a method for manufacturing an in-plane switching mode liquid crystal display device (LCD) that includes "forming a passivation layer on the pixel electrode; and forming a common electrode on the passivation layer" as recited in independent claim 28. As discussed above with respect to independent claim 18, Wakagi fails to remedy the deficient teachings of Hibino. Thus, because no combination of Hibino and Wakagi teaches or suggests the combined features recited in independent claim 28, claim 28 and its dependent claims 29-41 are allowable over Hibino and Wakagi. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 18-41 are respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner deem that a telephone conference would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number indicated.

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